

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 /096 W

----- 023496

R 272345Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9317

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 2701

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, TW, SF

SUBJECT: REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA ESTABLISH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (ROC, MOFA) ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS UPGRADING EXISTING CONSULAR RELATIONS TO DIPLOMATIC ON APRIL 26, 1976. THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS QUOTED IN THE LOCAL ENGLISH PRESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, DESIROUS OF FURTHER PROMOTING THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY CORDIAL AND CLOSE, HAVE DECIDED TO ELEVATE THE STATUS OF THEIR REPRESENTATION TO THAT OF EMBASSY AS OF APRIL 26, 1976.

END QUOTE.

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2. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE CURRENT SOUTH

AFRICAN CONSUL GENERAL IN TAIPEI, WILLEN PRETORIOUS HAS BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR AND THAT THE ROC WILL NAME ITS AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA IN A "FEW DAYS". IN MARKING WHAT IS, IN FACT THE ROC'S ONLY MAJOR GAIN IN DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION SINCE ITS DEPARTURE FROM THE UN, THE KMT ORGAN, THE CENTRAL DAILY NEWS, FEATURED A SPECIAL ARTICLE ON SOUTH AFRICA. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES INCREASED IN TOTAL VOLUME FROM US\$12 MILLION IN 1971 TO US\$140 MILLION IN 1975.

PROJECTIONS FOR THIS YEAR, ARE FOR AN INCREASE TO US\$200 MILLION IN TOTAL VOLUME OF TRADE. THE PAPER LISTED MAJOR ROC IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA AS MINERALS AND MAIZE AND SAID THE ROC EXPORTS MAINLY FISHING PRODUCTS, TEXTILES AND CHEMICALS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

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